

than to bear a child into a situation where it's easier to go ahead and take the step of having that child than it is to have the abortion without the restrictions on abortion but, instead, lowering the barriers that are in place now to having that child. And here I'm talking about the situation when you bring a child in the world today you face tremendous costs, commitment and challenges. On the cost side, I've talked time and again about child care costs and their impact on families and if you wish to go out in the work world, child care costs are very, very expensive in most areas of the state if you can find it. And other costs associated with having a child are extremely a heavy burden to bear and with any single parent family, of course, that's a problem. Even with two-parent income families it's a problem. So costs are a concern we should have; commitment's another one. The sacrifice and the finances are reflected also in the sacrifice in freedom when you have a child. I know very well having three of my own and we have to understand that that commitment takes a step of responsibility that we need to help these individuals who face that question and help them meet that commitment. The challenges they face, of course, are very difficult as well. The challenge of being a parent is a very scary step to take for anybody at any age, but particularly a young mother perhaps facing that alone is a scared person, and how do we work with them to take the challenge and reduce it for them to have that child? So what I'm suggesting is, instead of focusing so much on the question of how we make it harder to have an abortion, let's talk about, number one, how do we prevent the pregnancies in the first place and, secondly, how do we assist people, who would like to have a child, to bear the burdens of having that child. On the prevention of pregnancy question, we've looked at this issue. The Health Committee's had a couple years of studies and what we've found resulted in legislation that Senator Schimek has introduced for a couple of years, is that there are problems that intertwine with one another and they have a similar reason for existing. Adolescent pregnancy, suicide and drugs all come back to one main problem--a lack of positive self-image on these individuals. For whatever reason, maybe early in life or maybe at a different stage in life up to their adolescence, somehow an individual loses confidence in themselves and they lose status and stature in their own mind and they turn to other...other things to find some way to deal with the problems they face. They turn to suicide in some cases. They turn to drugs and alcohol in others. In some cases, they turn to pregnancy. But we need and can take steps that are positive in nature in